

REMARKS

In further support of the claims presented, Applicants submit the following remarks. Applicants acknowledge the rejections contained within the Final Office Action dated January 12, 2004, but in view of the canceled Claims 1-16, 20-35 and 51-68 and the new claims 69-116, the rejection is considered moot. A total of 48 claims (including 6 independent claims) have been cancelled by amendment as indicated herein, and a total of 48 new claims (including 6 new independent claims) have been introduced by amendment. Therefore, Applicants believe that no new fees are due, except for the RCE transmittal fee, which is included herewith.

Applicants also note that the attorney docket number has been amended so that the original docket number of K1013 is cancelled and replaced with the new docket number of 1000-1047. Applicants therefore request that all future correspondence related to the above-captioned patent application refer to the new docket number of 1000-1047 instead of the old docket number of K1013.

The Applicants have clarified the distinctions of the present invention by submitting new claims, and thus the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action are rendered moot. No new subject matter has been introduced as a result of the new claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request examination and an early indication of allowability.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned representative to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 1000-1047 (As Amended)

Respectfully submitted,

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Telephone: 505/255-4536
Facsimile: 505/883-1019

By: Kermit Lopez /
Kermit Lopez
Attorney Registration No. 41,953
Attorney for Applicants
ORTIZ & LOPEZ, PLLC
P.O. Box 4484
Albuquerque, NM 87196-4484